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MAD

OCTOBER 2007 NUMBER 482

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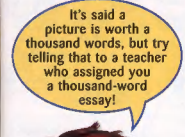

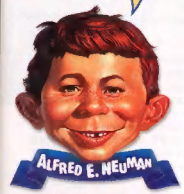

FRONT COVER ARTIST:
MARK FREDRICKSON

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Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™

I personally love your magazine. But as a telemarketer we are advised not to read your mag in our cubicles because it's not appropriate material for reading in the work place. I, being one of the many MAD-lovers of your magazine, started a petition to allow me and fellow employees to read MAD. My employer ripped up and threw it away. So, I'm writing the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™* to have MAD send a box of five MAD magazines and 100,000 subscription cards to me so I can give them out at work. Please make my Dumb Wish come true!

Douglas Clancey, Truman, MN

Doug E. Fresh — Thanks for your letter to the *Make A Dumb Wish Foundation™*! We'll send you the issues, but we'll do better than just send you the subscription cards! If you give us your home address, we'll personally drop them off! Everyday, for the next 100,000 days, we'll send one of our representatives to interrupt your dinner and hand-deliver a subscription card! Set an extra plate, our reps are coming hungry! —Ed.

HIT OR DISS

In the past year of reading your magazine I have leaned something (yes, it's true — MAD actually taught me something): the word "schmuck." It's my new favorite word and I've been saying it 24/7. People are getting kinda pissed off at me for saying it so often. Soooo…do you schmucks have any advice?

Tyler Jasper, Redding, CA

Ty Me A River — Of course we have some advice for you: Keep on schmuckin'! —Ed.

FEUD AWAKENING

I had heard that you guys at MAD love to tear families apart — well, here is your chance. My brother (if you can call him that) has always gotten everything good before me. He got his first MAD before me. He got a PSP before me — he even got a dog before me. So you see, he gets everything first. He loves MAD, so if you publish my letter before he ever gets one published he will hate me forever and I will rub his big fat face in it!

Isaac Corpe, Grosse Ile, MI

A Poke In The Isaac — We salute your determination to make your brother hate you! We usually have to do the heavy lifting when it comes to breaking families apart — so your letter was a real breath of fresh air! Enjoy your gloating now while you can, because he'll get his turn in the spotlight in next month's MAD when we run "Sergio Aragones'A MAD Look at Issac Corpe's Brother"! —Ed.

OCEAN'S 9

Just wanted to let you know that my Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron Five sailors are enjoying reading your latest issue of MAD magazine — we don't have computers or the Internet, so issue #478 is our only way to see any web action! The only problem is that we are in the vehicle maintenance department and I can't get my guys to do any work when they are holding MADs instead of tools — that kind of throws a wrench into things. Keep your great issues coming, you've got at least nine mechanics over here that will simply go mad in this 120 degree heat without your magazine to cool us off...

Lieutenant Commander Daniel Kinske,
United States Navy,
Camp Patriot, Kuwait

MEN IN UNIFORM GO MAD FOR MAD

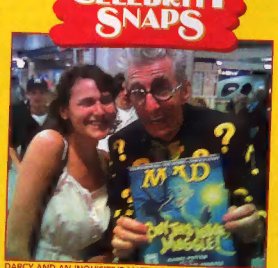
Lieutenant Dan — Thanks for sending the picture — and keep up the great work you guys are doing over there. We're really glad you wrote, actually — our FV103 Spartan Armored Specialist Personnel Carrier has been making a weird ka-chunk noise on right turns (never on lefts!) and the grease monkeys at Pep Boys haven't a clue! Any thoughts? —Ed. P.S. Wait a minute, you're in the Navy, but you work on ground vehicles? What up with that?

MAD CELEBRITY SNAPS

I was walking through Penn Station in New York City and I saw a guy wearing a question mark suit. At first I panicked because I thought it was the diabolical arch-enemy of Batman "The Riddler." But then I calmed down and realized it was just infomercial pitchmaster Matthew Lesko! So my boyfriend took a really crappy picture on my cellphone so I could get a free MAD subscription!

Darcy Savit, New York, NY

Savvy — Wow! That's a great snap! Do you have a spy working in the MAD offices? Because believe it or not, Matthew Lesko is number two in our 50 "Worst Things About Advertising" in this very issue! We suspect foul play and we're determined to flush out whatever mole in our organization flipped you off! Enjoy your three-year MAD subscription! —Ed.



DARCY AND AN INQUISITIVE MATTHEW LESKO

READER ALERT !

For those lucky enough to have your missives printed on this month's Letters Page, you'll receive a DVD copy of *Fantastic 4: Rise of The Silver Surfer* courtesy of our friends at Fox Home Entertainment.

If your letter didn't make it in, don't freak out — the DVD is on sale in October!

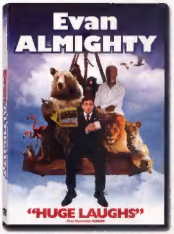
MAD'S 50 WORST THINGS ABOUT ADVERTISING

With 32 artists working to illustrate this year's "50 Worst Things About Advertising," we couldn't find the room to credit them all on the actual article. So instead, we decided to take away valuable Letters Page space, depriving certain readers the chance to win free DVDs! Below is a list of the artists next to the number of the example they illustrated.

1) Drew Friedman
2) Sam Sisco
5) Tom Bunk
6) Scott Bricher
7) Tim Hamilton
8) Timothy Shamey
10) Peter Bagge
11) Irving Schild
12) John Caldwell
13) Sergio Aragones
15) Mort Drucker
16) Kevin Pope
17) Tom Richmond
20) Mark Hempel
23) Al Jaffee
24) Jack Syracuse
25) Rich Powell
27) Tom Fowler
30) Bob Staake
31) Francis Mao
32) Teresa Burns Parkhurst
33) Charles Akins
35) Dave Crosland
36) Rick Tulka
39) Hermann Mejia
41) Evan Dorkin/Sarah Dyer
42) Paul Coker
43) Leonardo Rodriguez
44) Peter Kuper
46) Jose Garibaldi
48) Sam Viviano
49) Angelo Torres

READER ALERT 2

If you were lucky enough to get your letter printed, you'll also receive a DVD copy of *Evan Almighty courtesy* of our friends at Universal Home Video. If your letter isn't here, don't panic, *Evan Almighty* is out in October! Two free DVDs just for writing a stupid letter — if that's not incentive enough to write us, we don't what is! So get off your lazy butts and write or e-mail us today!



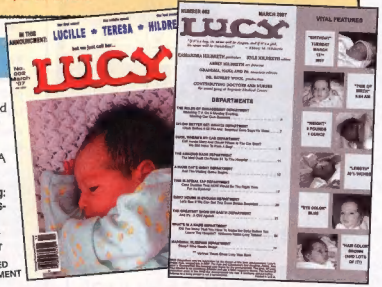
THE KID'S NOT ALRIGHT

My wife just had our second baby and we thought you would like to see the baby announcement. Enjoy!

Kyle Hildreth, Feeding Hills, MA

Running for the Hildreths — You've taught a valuable lesson in parenting: it's never too early to start embarrassing the hell out of your child! Congratulations to you and your wife and our deepest condolences to your child! —Ed.

KYLE'S MAD-THEMED BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



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PICTURE IMPERFECT

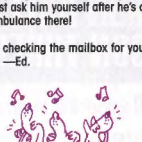
I am a seventh grader in middle school and I have a problem. My parents are taking me to see John Edwards in a month to do a speech and I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to have a picture with him for Celebrity Snaps. The only problem is that when I asked my parents if I could do this, they looked at me like I was a crazy person and said no. Do you have any tips for me to convince my parents to let me take a picture with a MAD magazine with him?

Ben Piccarreta, Tucson, AZ

It's Raining Ben — That would be a great MAD Celebrity Snap, so we are going to help you out! Here are some can't-miss tips to snag that snap!

- **Tell them that getting the picture printed in MAD would be great exposure and help get Edwards elected**
- **Point out to your parents that it won't be any more embarrassing for Edwards than having had run on a ticket with John Kerry**
- **Explain that Edwards can read MAD to pass the time while he gets his next $400 haircut**
- **And if all else fails, just pretend to injure yourself so you get taken to the hospital. Then you can just ask him yourself after he's chased the ambulance there!**

We'll be checking the mailbox for your picture! —Ed.



DEBATE AND SWITCH

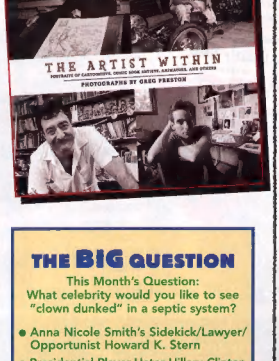
My dad and I recently had an argument. He thinks that all the letters in your magazine are made up, but I disagree. I think that you really do print the letters of your most adoring and pathetic fans. Please help me prove my dad wrong, and print this letter.

Joseph Hildula, San Francisco, CA

Hildula Oblongata — Well this should shut Papa Hildula up forever! Unfortunately, it is a win/lose situation for you (a bittersweet victory if you will). Although you've won this debate, you also have to live with the knowledge that your father is a moron and you share his genes! —Ed.

READER ALERT 3

Ever wonder what the studios of some of MAD's artists look like? Wonder no more! *The Artist Within* is a photo-filled coffee table book profiling the last half century's greatest cartoonists, comic book artists, animators and more. Featured in the book are MAD's own Sergio Aragones, Mort Drucker, Peter Kuper, Dave Berg, Angelo Torres, Jack Davis and others!



THE BIG QUESTION

This Month's Question:
What celebrity would you like to see "clown dunked" in a septic system?

- Anna Nicole Smith's Sidekick/Lawyer/Opportunist Howard K. Stern
- Presidential Player-Hater Hillary Clinton
- *American Idol*'s Space Filler Ryan Seacrest
- Man-faced Gyrator Fergie

Please send your votes by e-mail (letters@madmagazine.com) and make sure you put "The Big Question" in the subject line, or via snail mail to Amy "The Big Question" Vozeolas, MAD Magazine, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019.

NEXT MONTH IN MAD #483 ON SALE OCTOBER 16!

***I VS. 100!* AND ZOMBIES, ZOMBIES, ZOMBIES!**

NEXT MONTH IN MAD CLASSICS #19 ON SALE OCTOBER 16!

SCARY MOVIE SPOOFS! BRITNEY! JUSTIN! AND *SURVIVOR*

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Cheryl Rubin senior vp • brand management
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Contributing Artists And Writers
the usual gang of idiots

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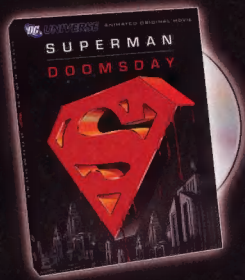
"THERE COMES A TIME WHEN EVEN GODS MUST DIE."

–Lex Luthor



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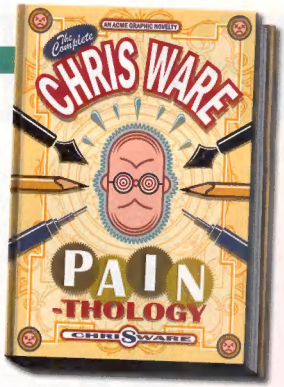
GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEW



THE COMPLETE CHRIS WARE PAIN-THOLOGY
by Chris Ware • $39.95, Fanboygravitas Publishing

Chris Ware is the man of the moment in alternative comics. Ware's won every possible cartooning award. The Eisner! The Harvey! The Guisewite! He's a much sought-after graphic designer. His work has been displayed in various museums. Needless to say, he portrays himself as a self-doubting failure.

The Complete Chris Ware Pain-thology begins with Quimby the Mouse, who is best described as a happy-go-lucky Fleischer cartoon character with inoperable liver cancer. The wordless strips capture Quimby in the acts of suffering, weeping, regretting, and applying ointment. Plans for an animated version fell through when Danish director Lars von Trier decided the premise was "a little too depressing" for Scandinavian cinema.

Next, his award-winning *Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth*. Corrigan is a friendless, awkward 12-year-old dreamer who hides from bullies and seeks refuge in superhero fantasies. It's a character type that comic book readers aren't used to seeing in their fiction. In their mirrors, yes, but not in their fiction. Much of the story is set in the late 19th century, a purer time without indoor plumbing. It's sure to strike a deep chord of nostalgia in anyone over the age of 110.

We follow Jimmy as he progresses from sitting at his kitchen table to sitting at his school desk to sitting in a hospital waiting room. Fans of plastic stacking chairs, this is the book for you! Corrigan ages from a beleaguered young boy to a feeble old man, although the story moves about 7% quicker than the real-life aging process. It's the quiet moments that register. Watching the reflected tint on a napkin dispenser change color slightly speaks more about inner torment than mere dialogue ever could, let alone plot development, or forward motion of any kind. In a bravura six-page sequence, Jimmy turns a doorknob.

The book ends on a upbeat note, as the dying protagonist remembers the one act of true kindness he ever knew: the time a stranger picked up Jimmy's leg after it had been severed by a trolley.

Realizing the untapped dramatic tension found in door jambs, Ware then fleshed out the first grueling 185 chapters of his work-in-progress, *Building Stories*. The story of a front stoop incrementally eroding, its remorseless drumbeat of hopeless sorrow and water-torture pacing made it the perfect choice to kick off the *New York Times*' aptly-named "Funny Pages".

The last section of the book showcases the bleak non-adventures of Rusty Brown, a snivelling, comic-collecting misfit. He's the type of pitiful fanboy who's destined to meet a cowardly end: self-suffocated, his head still in near-mint condition inside a decay-resistent Mylar storage bag.

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Jump in.

XBOX 360. LIVE

Do you hate advertising, but don't know what to do about it? Well, you *could* write some jokes about ads, hire artists to illustrate them, start a magazine and then publish it for all the world to see! But that's time-consuming, expensive and messy! Why not let MAD Magazine do the work FOR you? Say goodbye to confusing talent contracts and stubborn ink stains! For a limited time, MAD is offering not 30, not 40 — not even 45! — but 50 jokes all about advertising! It's a steal of a deal that you can't afford to miss! So don't delay, act now and start reading...

MAD'S 50 WORST THINGS ABOUT ADVERTISING

WRITERS: JEFF KRUSE AND SCOTT MAIKO

1

The genius ad agency that decided, given Apple's extremely limited market share of the entire home computer industry, that the best way to win over PC-users was to make them look like out-of-touch retards.

2

Matthew Lesko's hyperactive screeching about "free government money" which you'll never see a dime of. And from the looks of his absurd wardrobe, he didn't get much either.

3

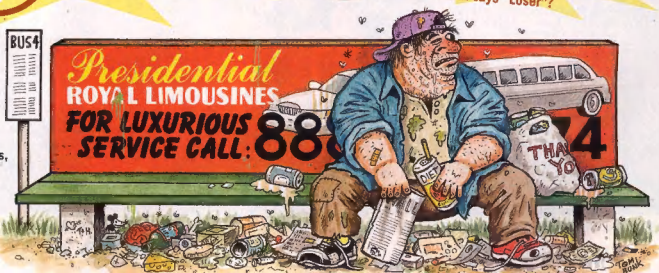
Direct mail crap which refers to you as a "valued customer" when you only ordered from them once in the last ten years.

4

Match.com's promotion offering six free months if you don't find the love of your life in the first six. Great. What happens if you still don't find a mate after a whole year? Do they send you a free T-shirt that says "Loser"?

5

Businesses that brilliantly advertise on bus stop benches, where, at any given time, their phone number will be blocked by people's asses.



There's a great marketing angle: show potential buyers the coolest things they can do with the product, then tell them that they shouldn't do ■ ever.

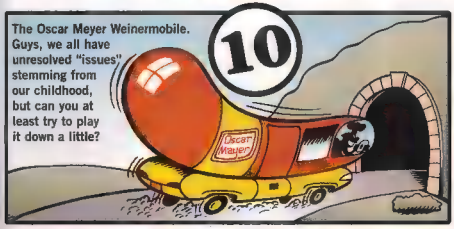
Magazine ads that use the phrase "As Seen on TV" — it's just taunting the Amish.

8

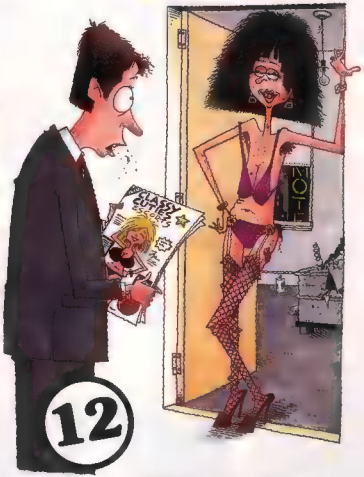
The never-ending revolving door of stadium sponsorship. It almost makes us long for the days of Enron Field.

9

Huge oil companies that take out expensive TV spots to tell you how much they care about the environment, instead of putting some ■ that money towards helping ■ clean up the pollution they caused.



The Oscar Meyer Weinermobile. Guys, we all have unresolved "issues" stemming from our childhood, but can you at least try to play it down a little?



12

Escort services that depict the women as being drop-dead gorgeous, but who, when you meet them, aren't even remotely attractive. Not that this has ever happened to us, of course. ■ happened to...some guy we know.

11

Gillette going on and on about the fact that they've added yet another blade to their already scary-looking razors. Geez, if they add just one more, we'll need a 3-day waiting period to buy one.

26

EVENTUAL END IN SIGHT TO UNFUNNY MASTERCARD AD PARODIES

PRICELESS

27

The makers of Doritos using tight-bodied hotties with flawless skin in their annual Super Bowl spots. We've seen women who eat lots of Doritos, and, for some reason, they don't look anything like that.

28

The surprising number of words that rhyme with "gellin'." Someone, for the love of God, please take away Dr. Scholl's rhyming dictionary.

29

Those frighteningly erratic fan-blown tube air dancers that are impossible to navigate around on a busy sidewalk without getting whipped in the face by a stinging swath of colorful rip-stop nylon.

30

Memorial Day sales. Because how better to honor Americans who gave their lives for freedom than to flock to big-box stores and buy stuff made in Asian sweatshops?

31

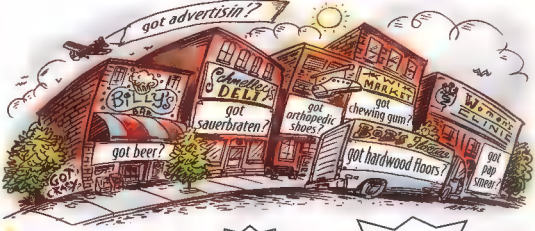
Videogame designers who think it's a brilliant idea to have product placement within games. As if *Grand Theft Auto* didn't have enough amoral prostitutes in it already.

32

Erectile pill commercials that hint at sex through embarrassingly obvious metaphors. Oh, spare us. Just show some hardcore XXX action. You'll earn more than enough money to pay the FCC fine.

33

The pandemic of copycat advertising by businesses that evidently think they're being clever by borrowing an idea the rest of us got sick of eight years ago.

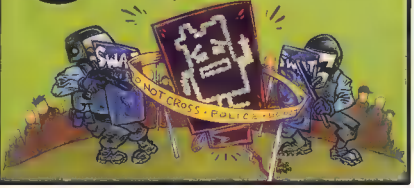


34

The inexplicable power of infomercials. Two hundred channels of at least vaguely interesting actual programming, and for some unknown reason you've been hypnotized by a paid advertisement for a deep-frying rotisserie bread-maker for the last thirty-seven minutes.

35

The hair-brained *Aqua Teen Hunger Force* guerrilla marketing in Boston. Hey, Adult Swim, how about when it's time to promote *Tom Goes to the Mayor*, you pick out a bunch of elected officials across the country and mail them unmarked envelopes filled with white powder!



36

Promos that ask questions to which the answer is blatantly obvious.

37

Little hand-made paper pockets of hand-scrawled and poorly Xeroxed "Lose Weight Now, Ask Me How" flyers, taped to ATMs by would-be multi-level marketers — which no one, anywhere, has responded to. Ever.

38

What's worse than poorly-produced commercials featuring local business owners on cable television? Even *more* poorly-produced testimonial commercials featuring the same local business owners attesting to the power of advertising on cable television.

39

Those Dove ads with the chubby women. We don't see them that much anymore, but they still haunt us.

40

That familiar blue envelope from Valpak, chock-full of valuable offers for dry cleaner services you don't use, carpet cleaners you don't trust, ethnic restaurants you wouldn't eat at, and self-adhesive address labels you don't need...that goes directly from your mailbox to the garbage pail, unopened.

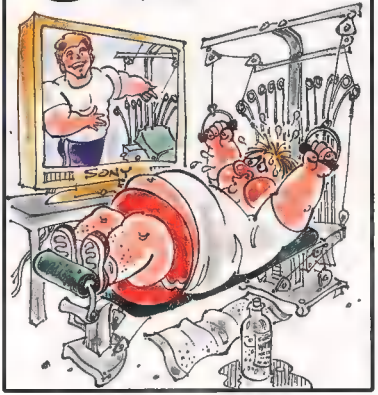
41

THE 23 DAY OCTOPUS INK DIET
ATSKISS
IF YOUR PREVIOUS 300 DIETS FAILED... TRY THIS ONE!
SAYS DR. ATSKISS PHD*
BEFORE
AFTER
* DR. ATSKISS HAS A PHD IN MEDIA PROMOTION

Diet product shills who sell their product by constantly repeating that fad diets don't work...except — AMAZINGLY! — their own.

42

Bowflex commercials featuring men and women with amazing bodies who anyone with half a brain knows did not get in that shape from dicking around with a flexible graphite rod three times a week for twenty lousy minutes.



43

The cynical exploitation of imperiled motorists in those loathsome OnStar radio spots.

Hello, OnStar? My engine's on fire and my mother is having a heart attack in the backseat and my wife just went into labor!
Could you please repeat what you just said, but slowly and more clearly? We can use this in our next ad!

44

Geico ads featuring a gecko (with two completely different voices), cavemen, high-fiving squirrels and random celebrity cameos. Nothing instills confidence in potential customers like an insurance company that can't even commit to one freakin' ad campaign.

45

Somewhere out there, there's a musician with "Set the words 'nausea, heartburn, indigestion, upset stomach, diarrhea' to music" proudly listed on his résumé.

46

Timeshare come-ons. Did you really think they were going to give you three days and two nights in Aspen for free?

47

Classifieds that enthusiastically claim there's no experience necessary for the job. Gee, can't wait to work for a company with such lofty standards!

48

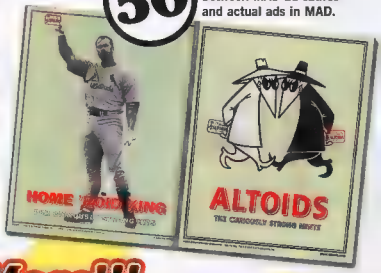
Internet banner ads of moronic things like two animated silhouettes doing the Hustle. As if that will get our minds off the internet porn we were searching for and get us thinking about refinancing our houses instead.

49

The irritating commercial trend for a company founder or other bigwig to discuss the merits of his product by looking at some indistinct point off to the side as though he somehow doesn't realize he's being taped and we're supposed to think he's participating in some impromptu interview. Look into the damn camera already!

50

Trying to tell the difference between MAD ad satires and actual ads in MAD.



But Wait, There's More!!!

51

Yard sale signs thoughtlessly left up for weeks after the actual event — sending would-be bargain hunters on a fruitless, soul-devouring, K-turn-filled wild goose chase through the suburbs' most boring backroads and cul-de-sacs.

52

Full-page ads in the local high school yearbook. Great advertising strategy, Mr. Small Businessman! Because the first thing a senior does right after graduating is look for a good rooting and septic tank service.

53

Craigslist.org — slowly and surely putting the nation's *Pennysavers, Thrifty Nickels, Recyclers*...and local sex/swing/escort/prostitute ad rags out of business, one poorly-produced, smutty paper as a time.

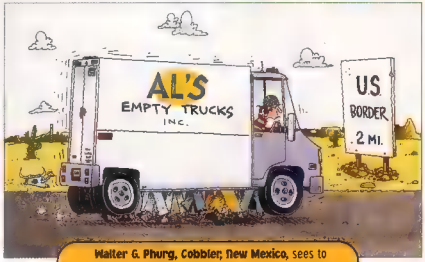
A FUEL-PROOF PLAN DEPT.

Gasoline prices have never been higher, and unfortunately the U.S. government's marriage to Saudi oil interests is even more enduring than the Iraqi quagmire it spawned. With no letup in sight, what's the little guy to do? Trade in his gas-guzzling SUV for a hybrid, saving the environment and eliminating our dependence on foreign oil? Nah, this is America! We can't let high gas prices stop us from our god-given right to drive from our kitchen to our living room! We need good ole American ingenuity! Until some arrives, here's...

JOHN CALDWELL'S

A Collection of Significantly Stupid Strategies For Battling SKYROCKETING GAS PRICES

WRITER AND ARTIST:
JOHN CALDWELL

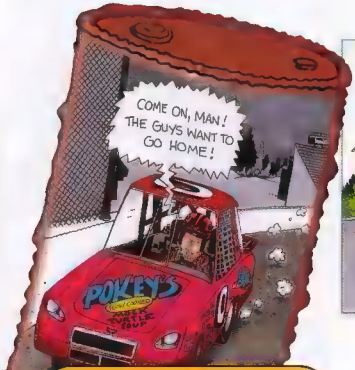


Walter G. Phurg, Cobbler, New Mexico, sees to it that smuggled immigrants pull their weight.

Victor "Big Augie" Parcheesi of the Bronx cuts fuel costs by taking his "clients" for shorter rides.

Salt Lake City software engineer Roy Pastine resorts to the delicate art of the fraudulent office collection.

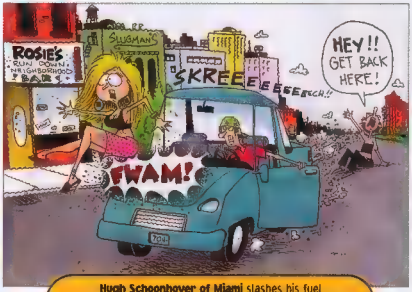
Vertin Smidge of Poultney, Vermont, slices away at his daily commute via a series of questionable shortcuts.



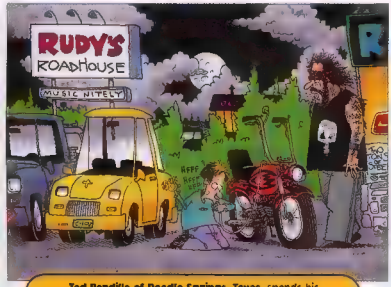
By driving at a prudent speed and avoiding jackrabbit starts, **Harlan Pilkow** manages to post a miles-per-gallon average previously unheard of in **NASCAR** events.

Art Mousseau of Fishsmell, New York, employs his self-designed "hoarding stacks" to ride out the predicted spike in prices.

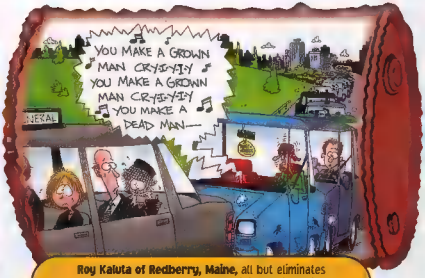
Herb Wickam of Dover, Delaware, bought a GPS unit that factors in coasting.



Hugh Schoonhover of Miami slashes his fuel budget to the bone by employing the skills he acquired from years of playing *Grand Theft Auto.*

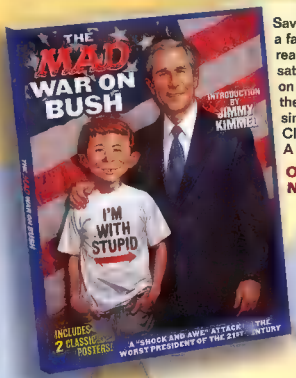


Ted Pondillo of Needle Springs, Texas, spends his evenings making often-risky siphoning choices.



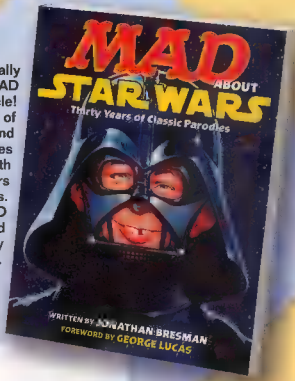
Roy Kaluta of Redberry, Maine, all but eliminates the drawbacks of stop and go driving by inserting himself into funeral processions going his way.

MILLIONS OF TREES
GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THESE BOOKS.
DON'T LET THEIR DEATHS BE IN VAIN!


THE MAD WAR ON BUSH
INTRODUCTION BY JIMMY KIMMEL
I'M WITH STUPID
INCLUDES 2 CLASSIC POSTERS!
A "SHOCK AND AWE" ATTACK ON THE WORST PRESIDENT OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Savor the final days of a failed presidency by reading this hard-hitting satiric collection of articles on George W. Bush — the worst President since…well… Clinton! A MAD Book.

ON SALE NOW!



Virtually every MAD *Star Wars* article! Chock full of annotations and behind-the-scenes memories from both MAD artists and writers and Lucasfilm veterans. Written by MAD Senior Editor and former Lucasfilm lackey Jonathan Bresman. Published by Del Rey Books.

ON SALE OCTOBER 16!

MAD's GREATEST ARTISTS

THE COMPLETELY MAD DON MARTIN

A Deluxe 2-Volume Special Edition containing every work MAD's Maddest Artist, Don Martin, created for MAD over the course of 30 years! With a foreword by *The Far Side* creator Gary Larson and tributes to Don Martin from Al Jaffee, Sergio Aragones, Mort Drucker and other members of MAD's Usual Gang of Idiots! More than 1,000 pages — count 'em! Published by Running Press.

ON SALE OCTOBER 23!

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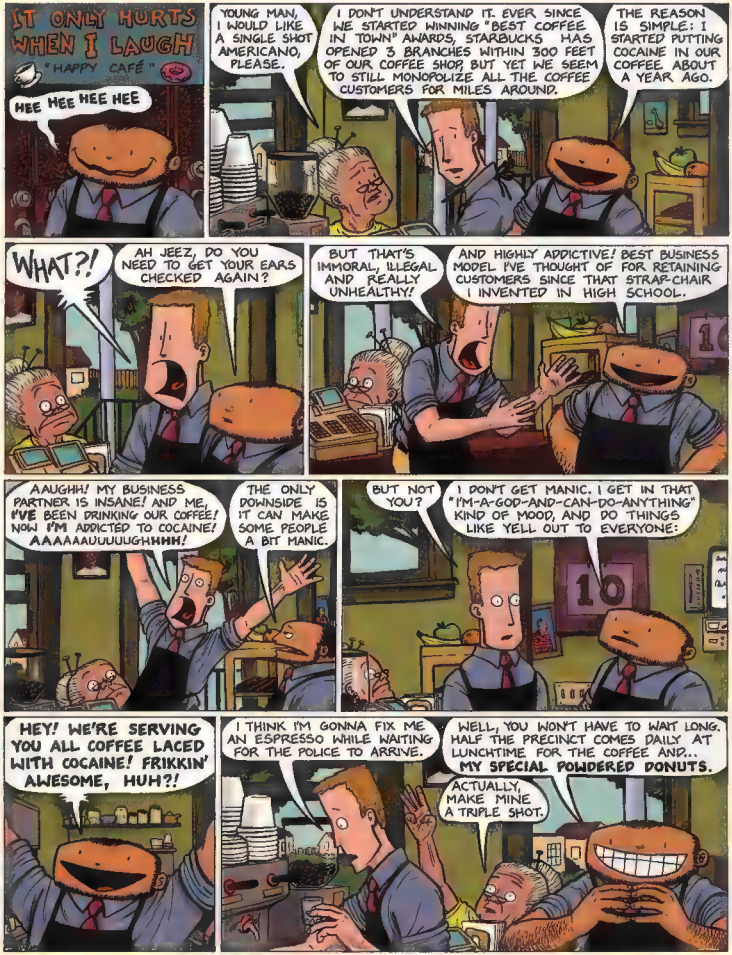
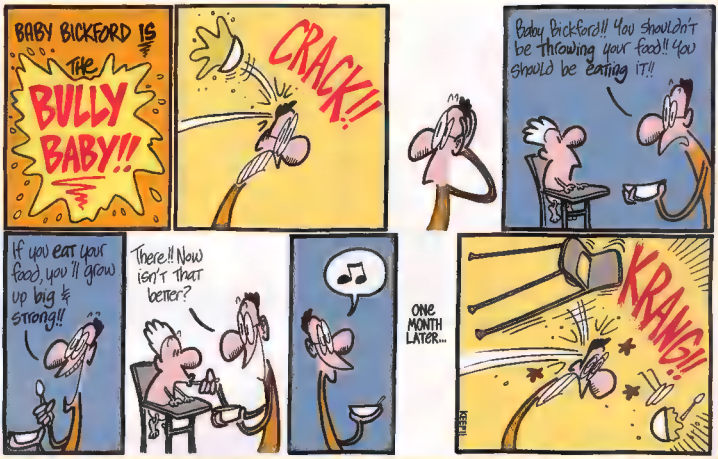
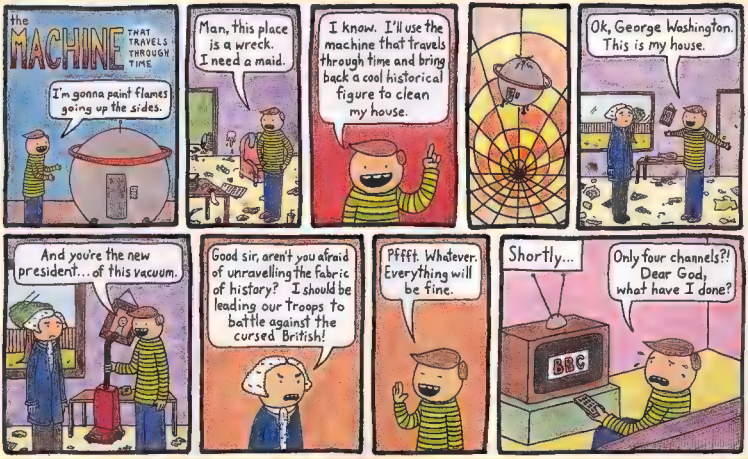
THE STRIP CLUB

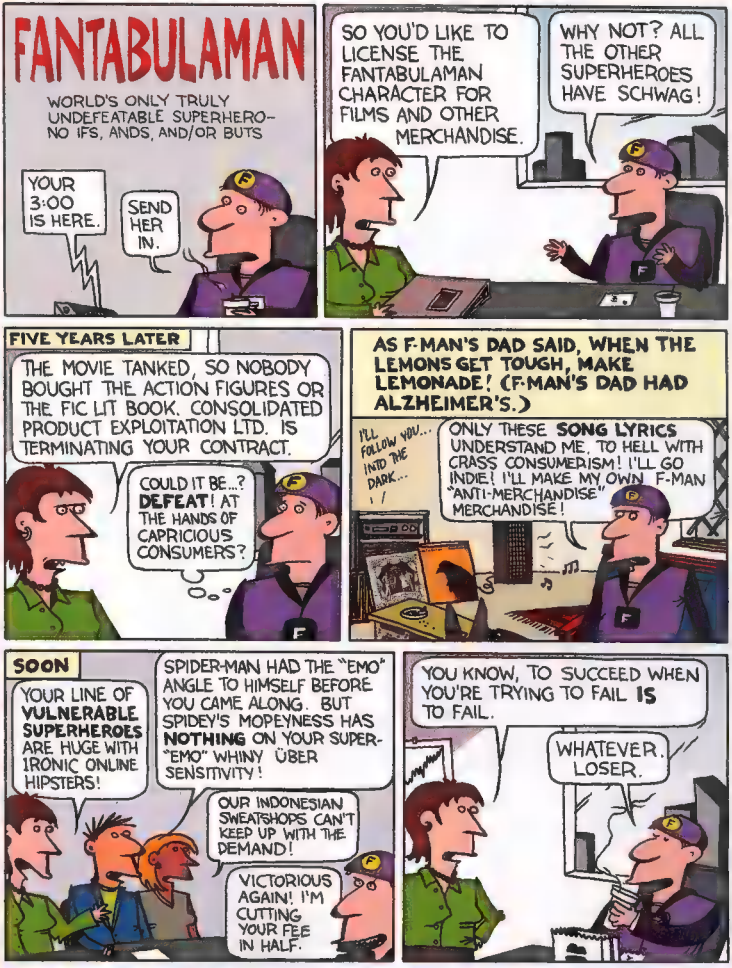
"Smells like mean spirit"
by vic black
Hey, who stunk up the bathroom?
I did. Why?
'Cause it stinks!
You understand what goes on in there, right?
Yeah, but...
So don't act like I just invented a use for the toilet! It's not like I took a dump in the fridge and called it a casserole!
All I'm saying is that it stinks.
Well, you're lucky you only have to deal with the smell!
In underdeveloped countries they go in a hole in the ground and have to deal with disease and infection every day!
You should go REVEL in that smell and consider all you have to be thankful for!
I hope she doesn't go spray potpourri again.
I know, that stuff stinks...
VIC BLACK


IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I LAUGH
"HAPPY CAFÉ"
HEE HEE HEE HEE
YOUNG MAN, I WOULD LIKE A SINGLE SHOT AMERICANO, PLEASE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. EVER SINCE WE STARTED WINNING "BEST COFFEE IN TOWN" AWARDS, STARBUCKS HAS OPENED 3 BRANCHES WITHIN 300 FEET OF OUR COFFEE SHOP, BUT YET WE SEEM TO STILL MONOPOLIZE ALL THE COFFEE CUSTOMERS FOR MILES AROUND.
THE REASON IS SIMPLE: I STARTED PUTTING COCAINE IN OUR COFFEE ABOUT A YEAR AGO.
WHAT?!
AH JEEZ, DO YOU NEED TO GET YOUR EARS CHECKED AGAIN?
BUT THAT'S IMMORAL, ILLEGAL AND REALLY UNHEALTHY!
AND HIGHLY ADDICTIVE! BEST BUSINESS MODEL I'VE THOUGHT OF FOR RETAINING CUSTOMERS SINCE THAT STRAP-CHAIR I INVENTED IN HIGH SCHOOL.
AAUGHH! MY BUSINESS PARTNER IS INSANE! AND ME, I'VE BEEN DRINKING OUR COFFEE! NOW I'M ADDICTED TO COCAINE! AAAAAAUUUUUGHHHH!
THE ONLY DOWNSIDE IS IT CAN MAKE SOME PEOPLE A BIT MANIC.
BUT NOT YOU?
I DON'T GET MANIC. I GET IN THAT "I'M-A-GOD-AND-CAN-DO-ANYTHING" KIND OF MOOD, AND DO THINGS LIKE YELL OUT TO EVERYONE:
HEY! WE'RE SERVING YOU ALL COFFEE LACED WITH COCAINE! FRIKKIN' AWESOME, HUH?!
I THINK I'M GONNA FIX ME AN ESPRESSO WHILE WAITING FOR THE POLICE TO ARRIVE.
WELL, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG. HALF THE PRECINCT COMES DAILY AT LUNCHTIME FOR THE COFFEE AND... MY SPECIAL POWDERED DONUTS.
ACTUALLY, MAKE MINE A TRIPLE SHOT.

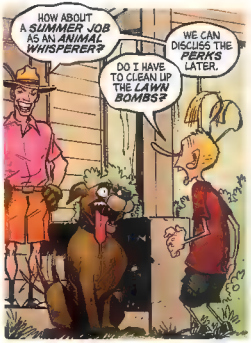
CHRISTOPHER BALDWIN


BABY BICKFORD IS THE BULLY BABY!!
CRACK!!
Baby Bickford!! You shouldn't be throwing your food!! You should be eating it!!
If you eat your food, you'll grow up big & strong!!
There!! Now isn't that better?
ONE MONTH LATER...
KRANG!!
KEITH KNIGHT


the MACHINE THAT TRAVELS THROUGH TIME
I'm gonna paint flames going up the sides.
Man, this place is a wreck. I need a maid.
I know. I'll use the machine that travels through time and bring back a cool historical figure to clean my house.
Ok, George Washington. This is my house.
And you're the new president... of this vacuum.
Good sir, aren't you afraid of unravelling the fabric of history? I should be leading our troops to battle against the cursed British!
Pffft. Whatever. Everything will be fine.
Shortly...
Only four channels?! Dear God, what have I done?
BBC
JOE SAYERS


FANTABULAMAN
WORLD'S ONLY TRULY UNDEFEATABLE SUPERHERO– NO IFS, ANDS, AND/OR BUTS
YOUR 3:00 IS HERE.
SEND HER IN.
SO YOU'D LIKE TO LICENSE THE FANTABULAMAN CHARACTER FOR FILMS AND OTHER MERCHANDISE.
WHY NOT? ALL THE OTHER SUPERHEROES HAVE SCHWAG!
FIVE YEARS LATER
THE MOVIE TANKED, SO NOBODY BOUGHT THE ACTION FIGURES OR THE FIC LIT BOOK. CONSOLIDATED PRODUCT EXPLOITATION LTD. IS TERMINATING YOUR CONTRACT.
COULD IT BE...? DEFEAT! AT THE HANDS OF CAPRICIOUS CONSUMERS?
AS F-MAN'S DAD SAID, WHEN THE LEMONS GET TOUGH, MAKE LEMONADE! (F-MAN'S DAD HAD ALZHEIMER'S.)
I'LL FOLLOW YOU... INTO THE DARK...
ONLY THESE SONG LYRICS UNDERSTAND ME. TO HELL WITH CRASS CONSUMERISM! I'LL GO INDIE! I'LL MAKE MY OWN F-MAN "ANTI-MERCHANDISE" MERCHANDISE!
SOON
YOUR LINE OF VULNERABLE SUPERHEROES ARE HUGE WITH IRONIC ONLINE HIPSTERS!
SPIDER-MAN HAD THE "EMO" ANGLE TO HIMSELF BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG. BUT SPIDEY'S MOPEYNESS HAS NOTHING ON YOUR SUPER-"EMO" WHINY ÜBER SENSITIVITY!
OUR INDONESIAN SWEATSHOPS CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND!
VICTORIOUS AGAIN! I'M CUTTING YOUR FEE IN HALF.
YOU KNOW, TO SUCCEED WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO FAIL IS TO FAIL.
WHATEVER. LOSER.
TED RALL

POINT TAKEN. AT LEAST YOU CALMED DOWN OL' CHOMPERS. HOW'D YOU GET SO GOOD AT DEALING WITH ANIMALS ANYWAY?
EVER HEARD OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL?

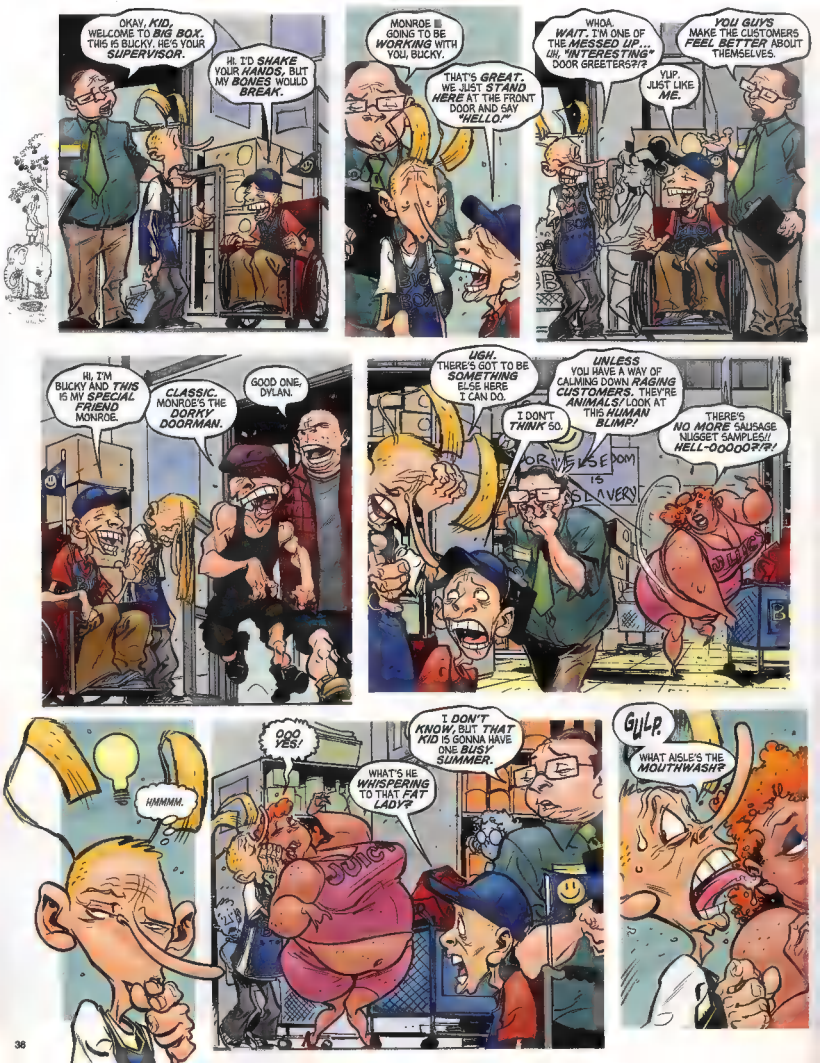


It's not quitting time yet, it's...

MONROE and... The Summer Jobs Part 2

YOU SAY THAT WEIRDO CAN CHEER UP BLACK TORNADO? BULLPUCKEY!
TORNADO HOOF-STOMPS HIM.
IF HE CAN'T, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?

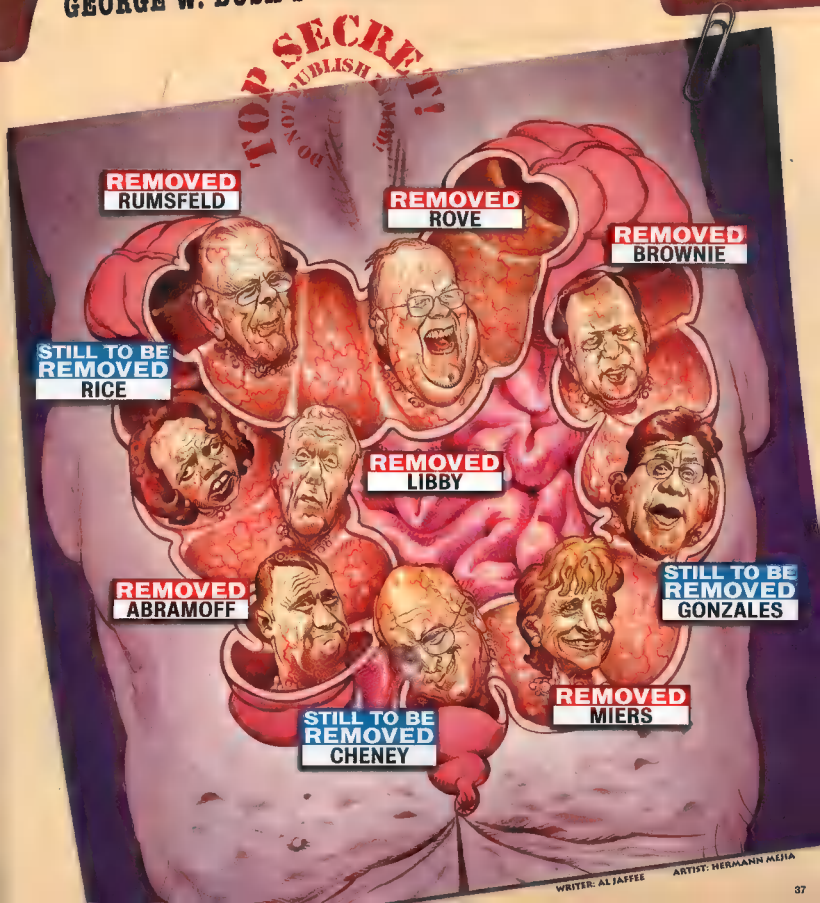
WRITER: ANTHONY BARBIERI
ARTIST: TOM FOWLER
COLORIST: RYAN FLANDERS


OKAY, KID, WELCOME TO BIG BOX. THIS IS BUCKY. HE'S YOUR SUPERVISOR.
HI. I'D SHAKE YOUR HANDS, BUT MY BONES WOULD BREAK.
MONROE IS GOING TO BE WORKING WITH YOU, BUCKY.
THAT'S GREAT. WE JUST STAND HERE AT THE FRONT DOOR AND SAY "HELLO!"
WHOA. WAIT. I'M ONE OF THE MESSED UP... UH, "INTERESTING" DOOR GREETERS?!?
YUP. JUST LIKE ME.
YOU GUYS MAKE THE CUSTOMERS FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEMSELVES.
HI, I'M BUCKY AND THIS IS MY SPECIAL FRIEND MONROE.
CLASSIC. MONROE'S THE DORKY DOORMAN.
GOOD ONE, DYLAN.
UGH. THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING ELSE HERE I CAN DO.
I DON'T THINK SO.
UNLESS YOU HAVE A WAY OF CALMING DOWN RAGING CUSTOMERS. THEY'RE ANIMALS! LOOK AT THIS HUMAN BLIMP!
THERE'S NO MORE SAUSAGE NUGGET SAMPLES!! HELL-OOOOO?R?R!
HMMMM.
OOO. YES!
WHAT'S HE WHISPERING TO THAT FAT LADY?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THAT KID IS GONNA HAVE ONE BUSY SUMMER.
GULP.
WHAT AISLE'S THE MOUTHWASH?

POLYP GOES THE WEASEL DEPT.

Recently President Bush underwent a colonoscopy during which he had several polyps removed. (Luckily, unlike Bush, his doctor did not rush in without an exit strategy.) Under the Freedom of Information act, MAD has obtained the President's confidential medical records which reveal the exact nature of what has been causing him so much pain and discomfort.

GEORGE W. BUSH'S COLONOSCOPY RESULTS



WRITER: AL JAFFEE ARTIST: HERMANN MEJIA

A TRULY EXPLOSIVE SEQUEL!
SPY vs SPY 2
THE JOKE AND DAGGER FILES
Over 200 "Spy vs. Spy" strips — many in full color — by writer and artist Peter Kuper!
"Spy vs. Spy Jr." from MAD Kids Magazine!
BY DAVID SHAYNE
FOREWORD BY J.J. ABRAMS
A complete collection of the rare "Spy vs. Spy" newspaper comic strips!
MORE MAD MISSIONS OF MADNESS
ON SALE OCTOBER 2ND
WHEREVER BOOKS AND ESPIONAGE SUPPLIES ARE SOLD!
Published by Watson-Guptill Publications

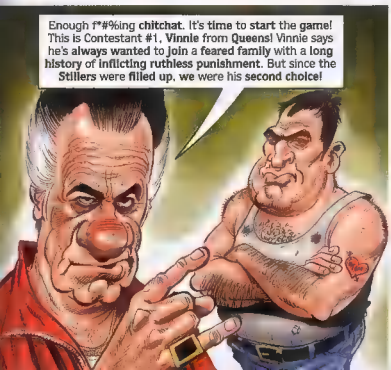
WISE GUISE DEPT.

For years, *America's Next Top Model* has taken groups of bitchy, bulimic, charisma-challenged head cases and pitted them against one another. Each forgettable princess shared the same hope: to get her name on a modeling contract. But there's a brand new reality show in which the contestants definitely DON'T want their names to show up on a contract...

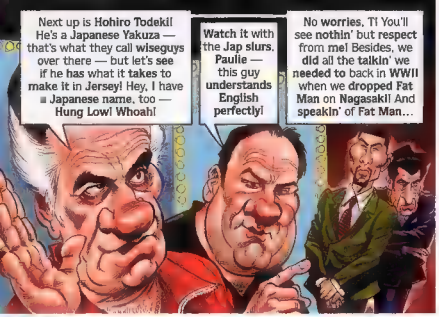
AMERICA'S NEXT top mobster

My name's Anthony Soprano, but I'm not gonna say it again! In my line of work, you're always looking for a way to take over somebody *else's* line of work! That's why we're muscling in here on the world of reality television. And I gotta say, this reality TV jazz already feels like home. It's a lot like my old business, only with fewer scruples! Sll, explain the show to our viewers!
Sure thing, T! We're about to bring up here on the beautiful stage at the Bada Bing four wiseguy wanna-bes! We're gonna give them a job to do and see if they got what it takes to be part of our crew. As you can guess, the jobs are gonna be a little tougher than picking up the cannolis!
Each one of them thinks he's trying to make his bones out of sight, in the shadows! But what they DON'T know is that we're secretly filming the whole process from beginning to end. We'll find out which new guy handles the s$@% that we put 'em through the best. The winner gets to have his balls busted by us for the rest of his life -- which will probably end with a f@&%in' bullet from somebody he thought was a friend! And before you ask, no, grand prizes are NOT transferable!

WRITER: DESMOND DEVLIN ARTIST: TOM RICHMOND

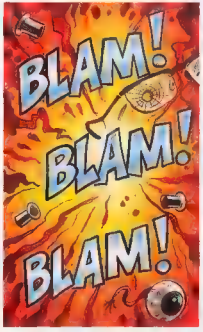

Enough f*#%ing chitchat. It's time to start the game! This is Contestant #1, Vinnie from Queens! Vinnie says he's always wanted to join a feared family with a long history of inflicting ruthless punishment. But since the Stillers were filled up, we were his second choice!

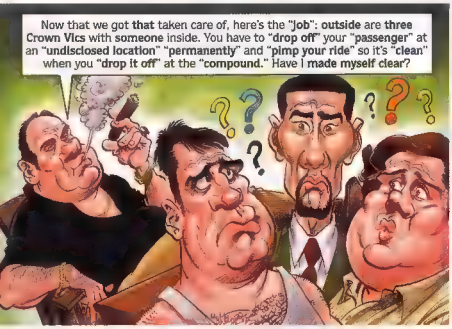
Contestant #2 is Roger from San Diego! It says here you practiced for this show by watching all the great crime movies. What, like *The Godfather*, *Goodfellas*, *The Departed*?
No! *Wall Street*, *Jerry Maguire* and *Entourage*! Stock brokers and talent agents make you guys look like turnstile jumpers!
You got cocktail onions, kid! I respect that, so I'm not gonna shatter your kneecap until AFTER the show!

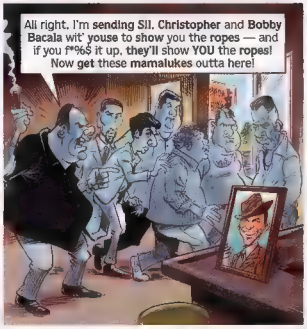

Next up is Hohiro Todeki! He's a Japanese Yakuza — that's what they call wiseguys over there — but let's see if he has what it takes to make it in Jersey! Hey, I have a Japanese name, too — Hung Low! Whoah!
Watch it with the Jap slurs, Paulie — this guy understands English perfectly!
No worries, T! You'll see nothin' but respect from me! Besides, we did all the talkin' we needed to back in WWII when we dropped Fat Man on Nagasaki! And speakin' of Fat Man...

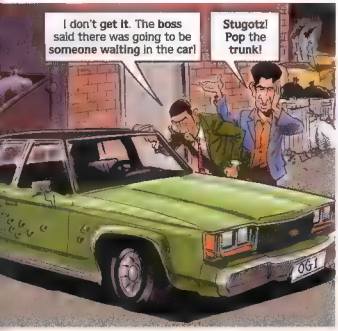
...this is our Fourth Contestant, Enzo! This guy tips the scales at 295 pounds, which could be a drawback. If you want to be in this family, Enzo, put on about ten more pounds — THEN you'll be in the zone!

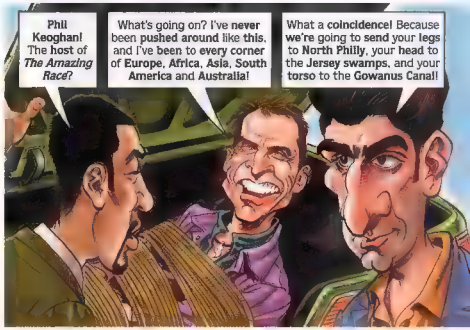
All right, before your "job assignment," I have to ask you, if the Feds pick you up and want you to tell them what you know, how do you answer?
Fuhggedaboudit!
You can't make me talk!
I don't know nuthin' about nuthin'!
Try refreshing the blog on my MySpace page?
And then there were three...
CLICK CLACK

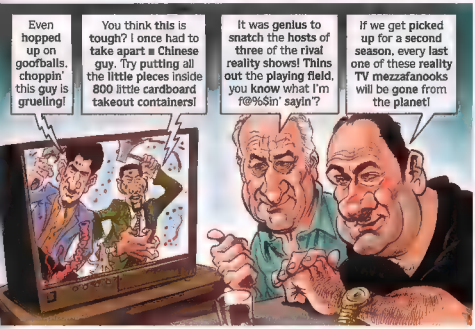

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!


Now that we got that taken care of, here's the "job": outside are three Crown Vics with someone inside. You have to "drop off" your "passenger" at an "undisclosed location" "permanently" and "pimp your ride" so it's "clean" when you "drop it off" at the "compound." Have I made myself clear?

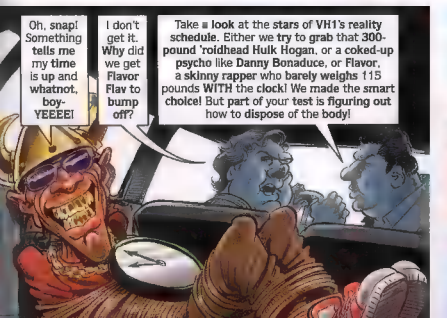

All right, I'm sending SII. Christopher and Bobby Bacala wit' youse to show you the ropes — and if you f**%$ it up, they'll show YOU the ropes! Now get these mamalukes outta here!

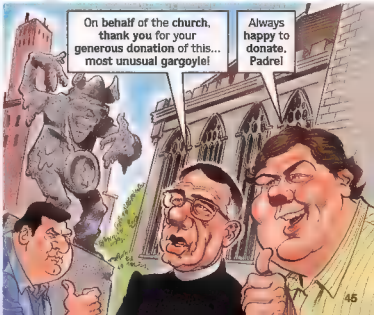

I don't get it. The boss said there was going to be someone waiting in the car!
Stugotz! Pop the trunk!


Phil Keoghan! The host of *The Amazing Race*?
What's going on? I've never been pushed around like this, and I've been to every corner of Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and Australia!
What a coincidence! Because we're going to send your legs to North Philly, your head to the Jersey swamps, and your torso to the Gowanus Canal!


Even hopped up on goofballs, choppin' this guy is grueling!
You think this is tough? I once had to take apart a Chinese guy. Try putting all the little pieces inside 800 little cardboard takeout containers!
It was genius to snatch the hosts of three of the rival reality shows! Thins out the playing field, you know what I'm f@%$in' sayin'?
If we get picked up for a second season, every last one of these reality TV mezzafanooks will be gone from the planet!

The Meadowlands! You picked a good spot to dispose of, shall we say, the *former* host of *Survivor*! I know it's cold out here, but you should put out that f@%$in' torch — it could attract attention!
That's no torch — that's Jeff Probst!


Oh, snap! Something tells me my time is up and whatnot, boy-YEEEE!
I don't get it. Why did we get Flavor Flav to bump off?
Take a look at the stars of VH1's reality schedule. Either we try to grab that 300-pound 'roidhead Hulk Hogan, or a coked-up psycho like Danny Bonaduce, or Flavor, a skinny rapper who barely weighs 115 pounds WITH the clock! We made the smart choice! But part of your test is figuring out how to dispose of the body!


On behalf of the church, thank you for your generous donation of this... most unusual gargoyle!
Always happy to donate, Padre!

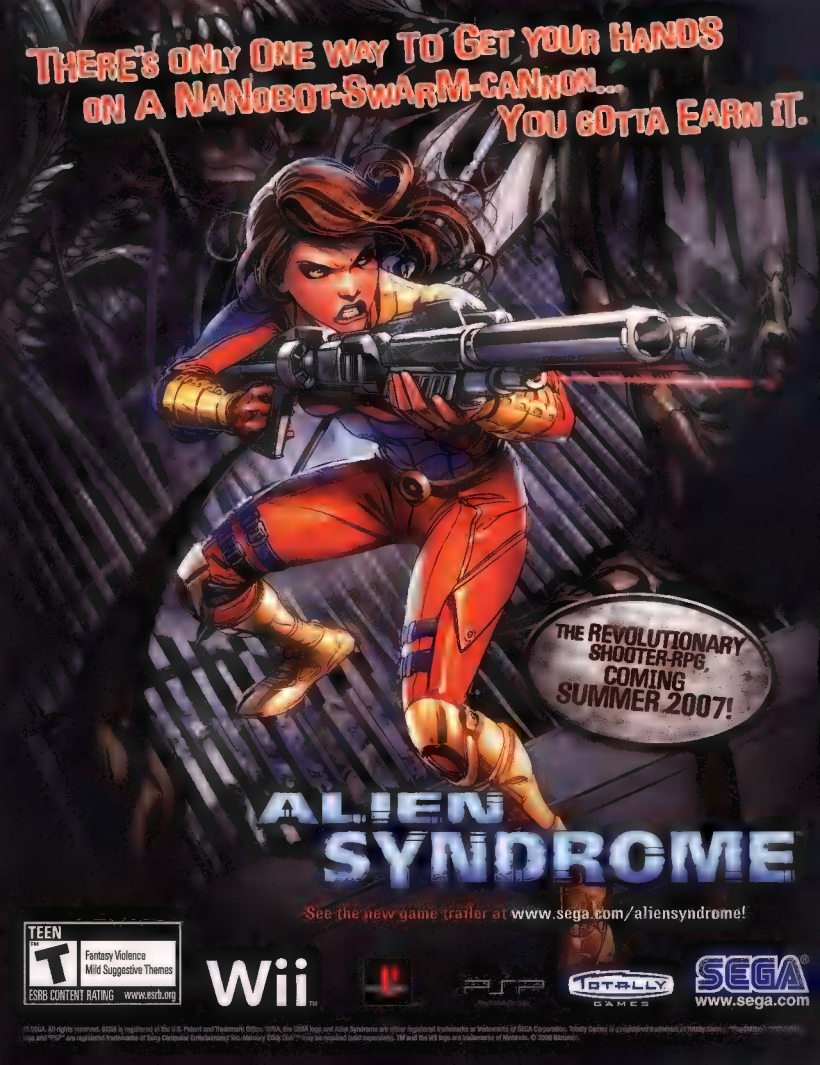
You all did good this afternoon — now, to see if you've really got the stomach to be in the family, we're gonna do like they do on other reality shows — you're gonna have to eat something totally disgusting! Janice, tell 'em what you made!
You'll start with some calzones, and antipasta with gabagool and prozhoot! Then, homemade manicott, gavadell and calamare with some pasta fazool, mussels ma-dinara, clams oregenata, and eggplant parmigian'!
Yo, T, what's disgusting about that? It sounds like an unbelievable feast!
She used store-bought tornato sauce!
Arrgghh! T, you sick f#@$!
Yo, Uncle Junior! Time to wrap it up! How are we coming along with the scores?
With 45 pancakes, it's Team Cupcake. Aw, s%#&, what did I say, Team Cupcake? I meant Team Cupcake. I had a dog named Socks once. Nice doggy. Hey, what did the Greek hooker say to the blind man's dog? Pancakes! Woof!
The scores, Junior! The SCORES!
Dammit! Dammit! I just made a number one in my pants!
It looks like our winner is Contestant Number One!
Congratulations, and salud, Vinnie! As winner of the contest, you'll be getting your own monogrammed icepick, 30,000 cartons of cigarettes, and a... whoa, whoa, whoa! What the f#@&? Lock the doors! This guy's wearing a wire!
But, but, it's for your own TV show! You just GAVE me the microphone so we could film this ceremony! You're wearing a wire yourself!
No more crocodile tears! Into the car trunk, Vinnie boy! We're taking a trip to the Pine Barrens!
Okay, let's get outta here! Once we torch the set and collect the insurance, we can start up production on America's Next Top Mobster: Miami, America's Next Top Mobster: Boston, and even America's Next Top Mobster: Hackensack! This reality TV scam is the sweetest racket ever!

And now, presenting a Formerly New MAD Feature!

WHAT THE HECK IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Can you find the 9 idiotic changes we've made to this magazine cover?

ANSWERS: 1) The price of the magazine is upside-down. 2) Frankenstein's head scar is smaller. 3) Frankenstein's tongue is sticking out of the other side of his mouth. 4) Alfred's head is turned all the way around. 5) Frankenstein has nail polish on his pinky. 6) Alfred has a right hand. 7) The pair of tweezers has disappeared. 8) Frankenstein has a second scar on his left arm. 9) There's now a palmbrush in the bottom right corner.



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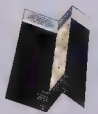
WHAT HOTLY DEBATED ISSUE HAS AMERICANS SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE?

HERE WE GO WITH ANOTHER RIDICULOUS MAD FOLD-IN

There is no shortage of issues that get the American people all worked up. There is one area in particular, however, that really gets people's blood boiling and leaves them divided. Whatever one's opinion on this matter is, there's a real mob mentality surrounding it. To find out what this hot-button topic is, fold page in as shown.



FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

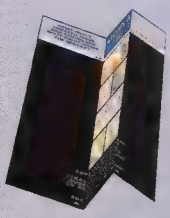
A FOLD PAGE OVER LEFT

B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

SOPPING WET ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT HORDES ARE FRANTICALLY ARRIVING DAILY. IRAQ THREATENS TO FINALLY COLLAPSE. PRESIDENTIAL RIVALS AGREE: SUCKING UP FOR VOTES WORKS. BUSH SEES NO NEED OR REASON TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING. ALSO, TOTALLY SILLY PARIS INTERVIEWS AND SERIOUS ABORTION BATTLES KEEP BOILING UP. WITH SUCH PROBLEMS, IS THERE ANYTHING ANYONE LIKED?

WRITER AND ARTIST: AL JAFFEE

WHAT HOTLY DEBATED ISSUE HAS AMERICANS SPLIT RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE?



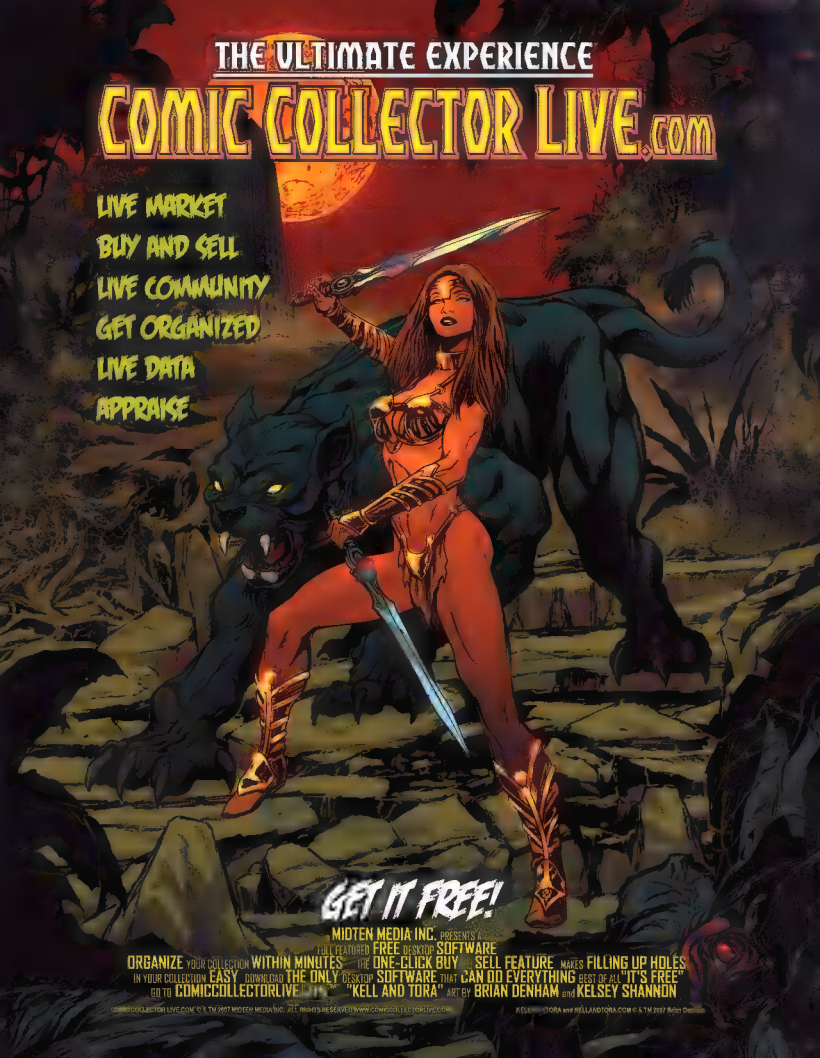
FOLD PAGE OVER LIKE THIS!

A B FOLD BACK SO THAT "A" MEETS "B"

SOPRAN-
O
FINALE:
SUCKED
OR REALLY

SUCKED?

A B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THE FUNDALINI PAGES

THE FAST 5

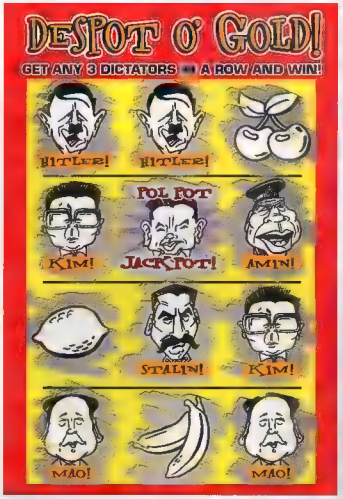
SIGNS THAT THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING SHADY WITH NBA OFFICIATING...

1. The crowd is asked to rise for the playing of *The Sopranos* theme
2. Alberto Gonzalez says that there's no problem at all
3. Suddenly, star players are getting slapped with fouls for "Flagrant Sweating," "Excessive Height," and yelling "I'm Open!"
4. The final score is printed right there on the ticket stub
5. "Ladies and gentlemen, your world champion Charlotte Bobcats!"

FUNDALINI ASKS "WHAT IF...?"

This Month...

WHAT IF SCRATCH-OFF LOTTERIES SALUTED THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS DICTATORS?



SOCK PUPPET THEATER

THE TRAPEZE TRAGEDY!

AN AD WE'LL SOON BE SEEING

OTHER SECRETS REVEALED BY THE D.C. MADAM

Technically, it should really be called "The DC-Northern Virginia-Maryland Suburbs Madam Scandal," but that just doesn't roll off the tongue.

Many congressmen asked to be whipped and punished after voting to allow Bush to invade Iraq.

Non-politician clients included players from Washington's four major sports franchises, but their names weren't leaked since nobody would recognize them anyway.

One Senator blurts out Article 3, Section 2 of the Constitution at the height of lovemaking.

Despite the rhetoric, it turns out that *neither* party wants women to be on top.

THE KITCHEN SINK

TV SHOWS RUMORED TO BE IN THE WORKS

- ★Are You Smarter Than A F***ing Idiot?
- ★Law & Order – CSI Edition
- ★Liver Swap
- ★Amputate This!
- ★Real Bad Sex
- ★Cold Cream Files
- ★XXIV – Roman Numeral Edition
- ★Antiques Road Kill
- ★So You Think You Can Come Up With a Better Show Title Than This?
- ★Gay's Anatomy
- ★Who Wants To Be A Putz?
- ★Skank Jury
- ★Genital Hospital
- ★Dancing With The Has-Beens.
- ★Star Trek: The Midget Generation
- ★The McLaughlin Groupies
- ★Meet the Press, Sleep with the Press, Never Call the Press Again
- ★The Six Second Gourmet
- ★Eye-Patch Judge
- ★Hangin' with Mr. Anderson Cooper

- ★Judge Judy Garland
- ★The Bionic Womanizer
- ★The Young and the Restless Leg Syndrome
- ★Deaf Poetry Jam
- ★Dateline: To Catch a Cold from a Predator
- ★The New Adventures of Monkey Pope
- ★The Bionic Squirrel
- ★Every Day with James Earl Ray
- ★Access Ballywood

- ★X-treme Speed Shaving
- ★Flip This Spouse
- ★Dancing with the Scars
- ★You S.O.B.! I Hate You! (Now in HD-TV)

VEY TO GO!

13

Liquor companies who urge you ■ "Drink responsibly" while selling the very item that makes you lose all sense of responsibility.

14

Food products that trumpet their "improved taste." Or, in other words, they've been making you eat the old, bad-tasting crap for years!

15

Chef Boyardee. We just don't like him.

16

Sex-obsessed lunatics who can't look at a print ad without immediately discovering subliminal smut that no one else can see.

If you hold it at the proper angle, the banana is aimed right at the two melons! COME ON, PEOPLE, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
WEEKLY SHOPPER
DONUTS
CUCUMBERS

17

Sports announcers who are forced to shill for products during a game, by means of cute segues.

Looks like Slobkowski took a crushing hit to the spine, and might be paralyzed. Fans, if you're paralyzed by a crushing debt, call the good folks at Slezak Loans, and be back on your feet in no time...
22
12

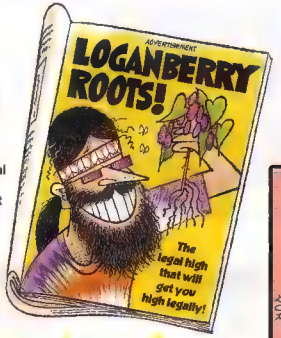
18

Companies that brag about being "family owned," which can also be said about the Mafia.

19

20

The ads in *High Times* touting "legal highs." We hate to break it to you, but the reason they're legal in the first place is because you can't get high off them.



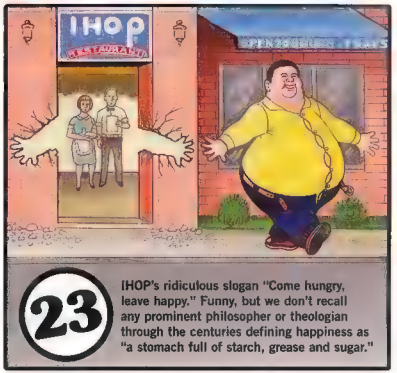
21

Catalogs that come every few weeks informing you that it's your last one, unless you order from it.

22

Weaselly cop-out phrases like "Prices may vary," "Your mileage may differ," and "Only at participating stores." Why don't they just come right out and say, "The claims we just made aren't true"?

23



IHOP's ridiculous slogan "Come hungry, leave happy." Funny, but we don't recall any prominent philosopher or theologian through the centuries defining happiness as "a stomach full of starch, grease and sugar."

24

The fact that NASCAR runs commercials during its televised races. Hey, Billy Bob: grab one of them thar dictionary books and look up the word "redundant."

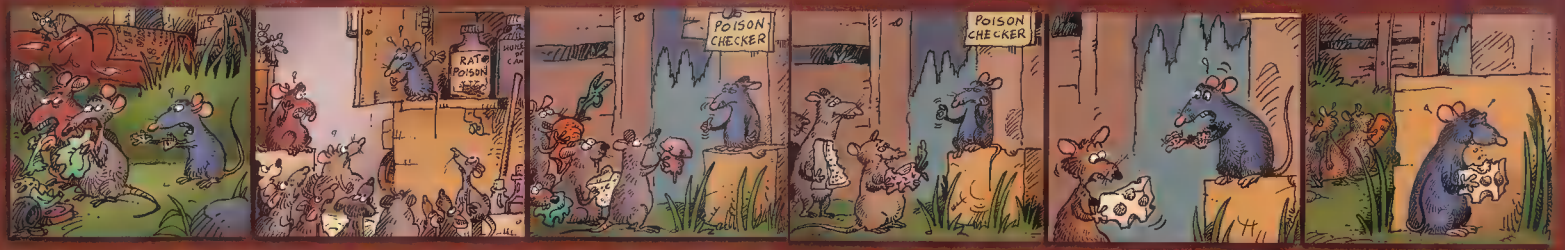
25

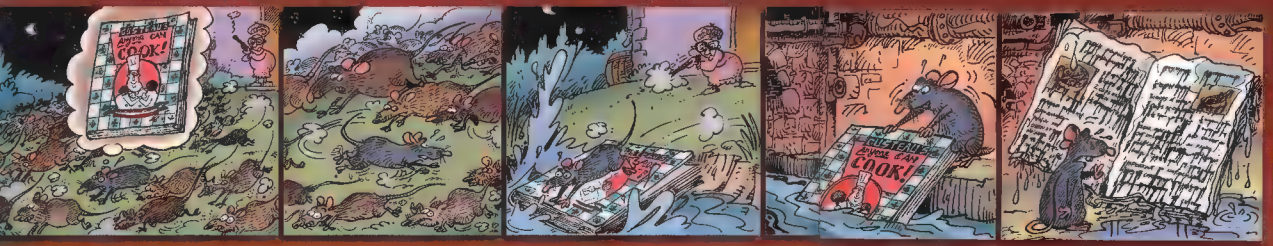
TV ads where the husband is a clueless, whining man-child whose wife has ■ tell him what product will solve his absurdly minor problem.

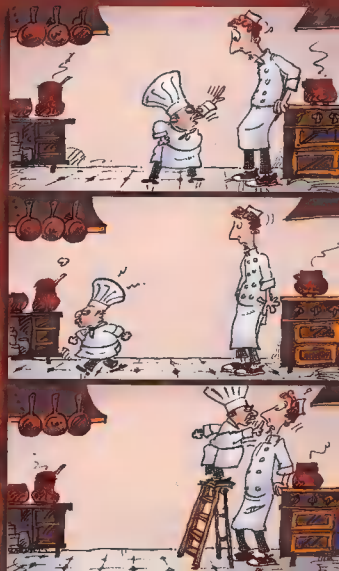
Of different people.
Each repeating a part of the same line...
...A part of the same line.
...But emphasizing various words differently.
...Differently.
Differently.

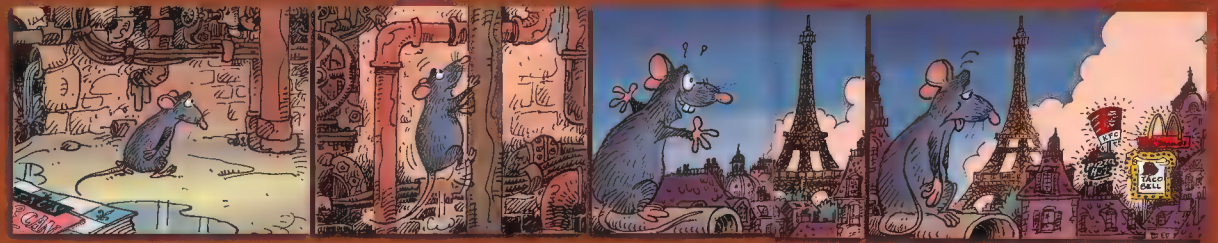
SERGIO ARAGONES Presents

A MAD LOOK AT RATATOUILLE

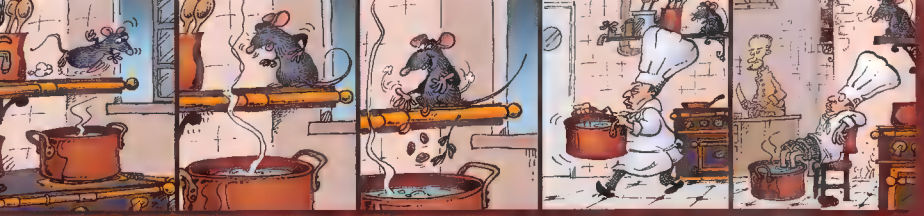


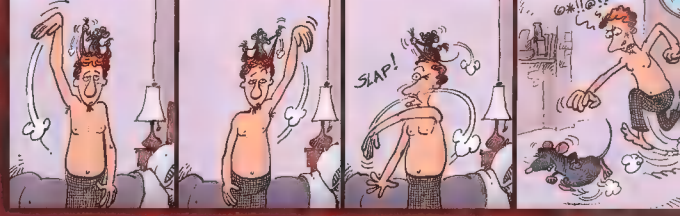


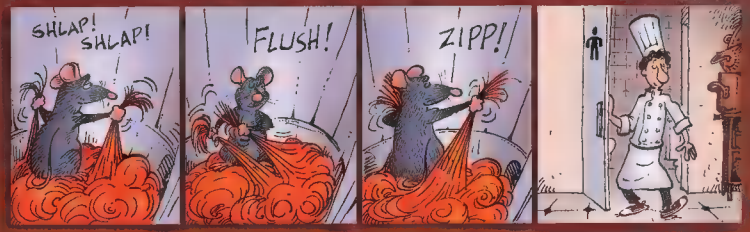




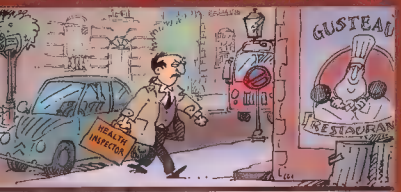
WRITER AND ARTIST: SERGIO ARAGONES

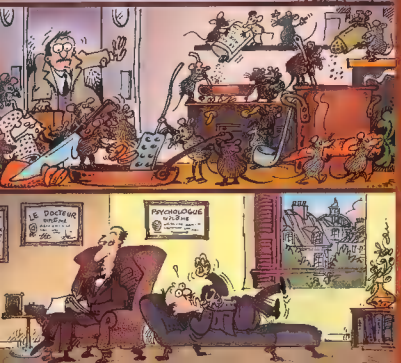


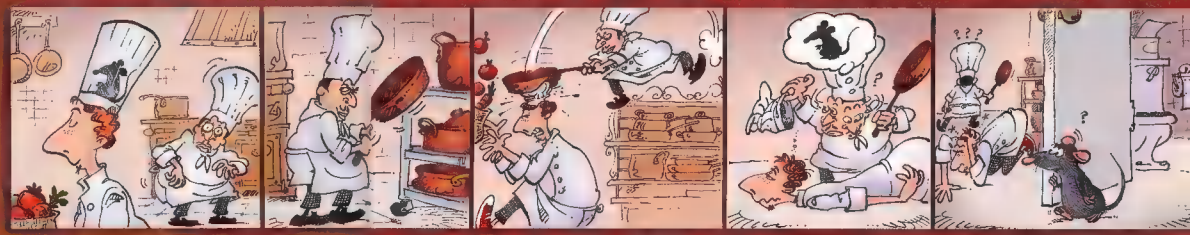

SLAP!

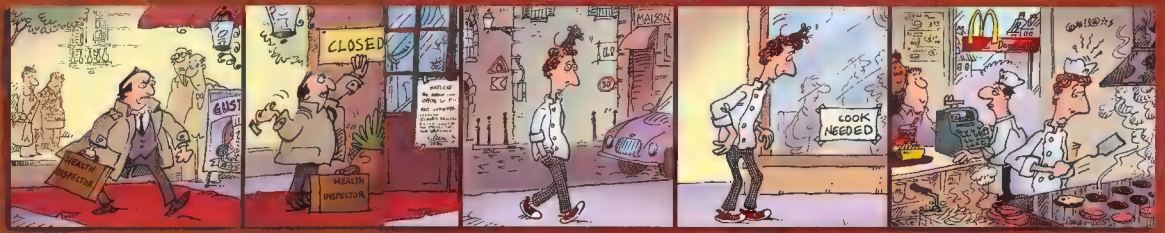

SHLAP!
SHLAP!
FLUSH!
ZIPP!

ZZZZ


GUSTEAU
RESTAURANT
HEALTH INSPECTOR

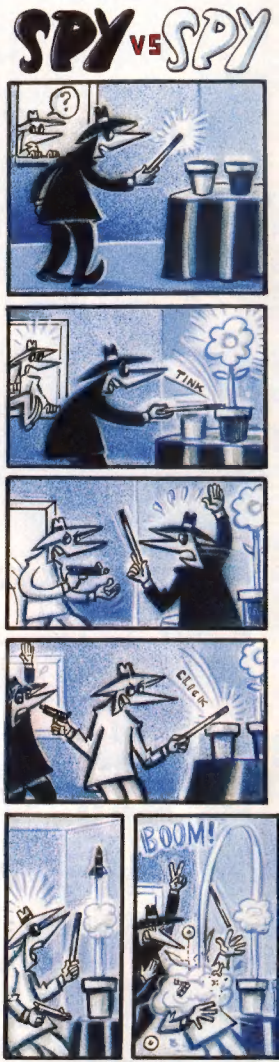

PSYCHOLOGUE
LE DOCTEUR




HEALTH INSPECTOR
CLOSED
HEALTH INSPECTOR
MAISON
COOK NEEDED

astdewtour.com
BALTIMORE, MD
Panasonic
SEASON THREE...
WHAT'S NEXT?
WATCH IT LIVE ON NBC Sports + USA
THE PRO ACTION SPORTS TOUR
SKATE. BMX. FREESTYLE MOTOCROSS
AST dew TOUR
Panasonic
TOYOTA
MONGOOSE
MAD

KUPER

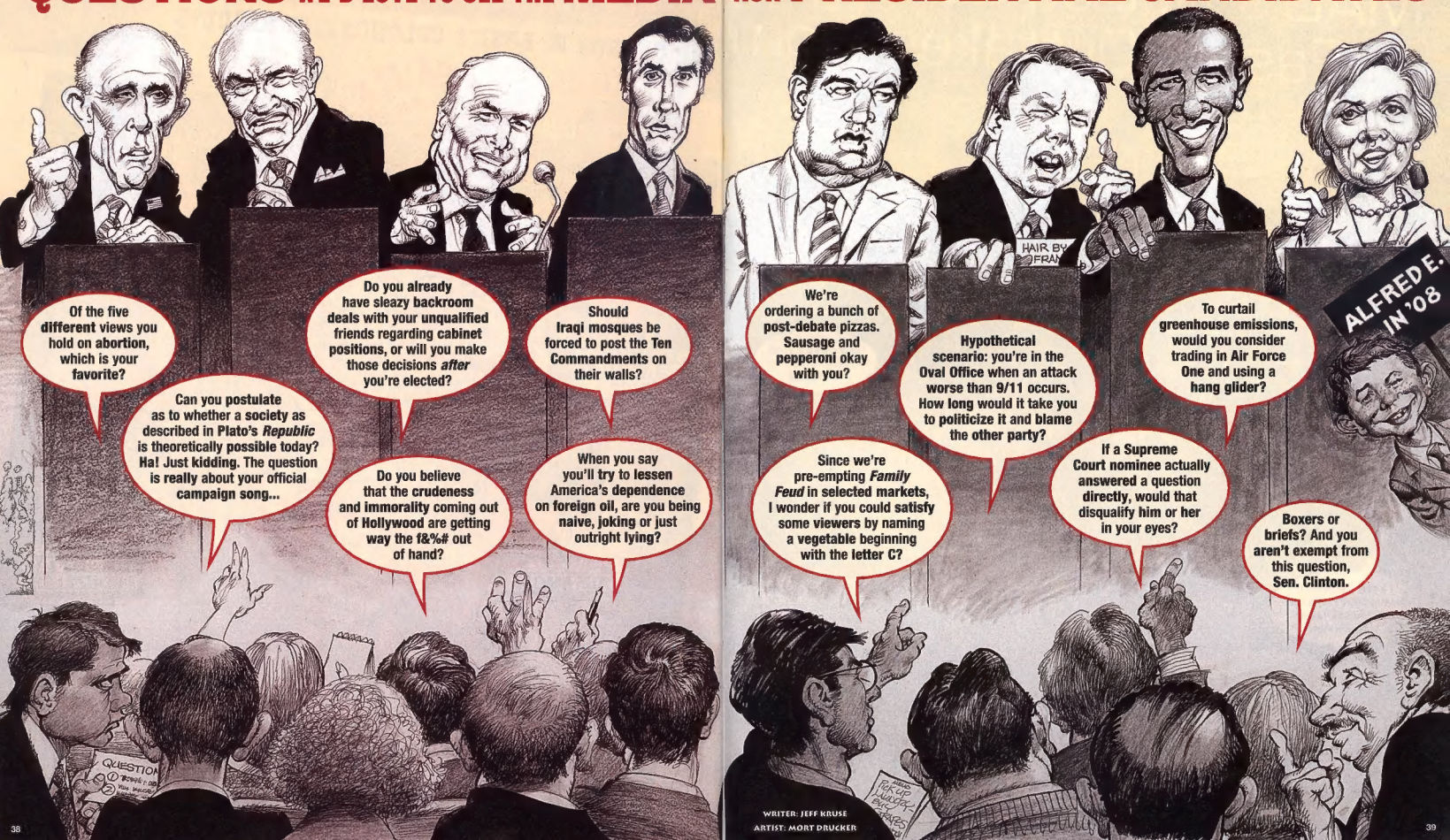


WRITER AND ARTIST: PETER KUPER

THAT WAS TERRIFIC, BOY. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT WORKING ON SOME SHEEP NEXT?
SURE. JUST LET ME RINSE OUT MY MOUTH FIRST. THAT HORSE WAS PACKED WITH WAX.
HUH?
COME AGAIN?
WHAT? I CALM THEM DOWN BY STICKING MY TONGUE IN THEIR EAR.
UGHH. WHAT THE HELL? I THOUGHT YOU WERE WHISPERING TO THEM!
DUDE, IT'S A HORSE. ARE YOU TOTALLY HIGH? NO. YOU GOTTA GET GOOD AND IN THERE WITH ANIMALS. WATCH.
SWEET MOLASSES! THE PERVERT IS MOLESTING MY DAMN LIVESTOCK!!
I'M GONNA BE SICK!
IT'S COOL. MY MOM SHOWED ME THIS TRICK. LOOK!! HOW HAPPY THE LITTLE GUY IS.
WELL, HE HAS A POINT, THE ANIMAL DOES SEEM TO BE HAPPY...
CLICK
SO... I GUESS THE SHEEP ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION?
BAM! BAM! BAM!
FINALLY. I CAN ENJOY SOME IDIOTIC DAYTIME TV.
COFFEE BREAK'S OVER. TIME TO FIND YOU A NEW JOB.
IF ONLY YOU LOOKED FOR YOUR OWN JOB THIS HARD.
HOW ABOUT I LOOK FOR A SHOE TO BANG ON YOUR HEAD?
I'M GOING. I'M GOING.
THERE WE GO – OLD LADY ATKINS' HOUSE. SHE'S ALWAYS A SOFT TOUCH.
ECHH. SHE SMELLS LIKE TOPSOIL.
THINK OF IT AS THE EARTH CALLING HER HOME, BOY.
AHEM. I'M RIGHT HERE, BOYS. OH, IT'S YOU! TIME FOR ANOTHER GAME OF "RANDY ORDERLY"?
SORRY, OLD LADY ATKINS. NOT TODAY.
BUT POSSIBLY THURSDAY.
MEANTIME, THIS IS MONROE. HARD WORKING, STRONG...AW, WHO AM I KIDDING? CAN RAT BOY WERE MOW YOUR LAWN?
I'M SORRY. I USE THEM GUATEMALAN GARDENERS.
OH, COME ON, I DON'T CHARGE MUCH.
I GIVE THEM HALF AN APPLE. WHAT DO YOU CHARGE?
WE'RE OUT OF HERE.
WHAT ABOUT MY SENSUAL SPONGE BATH?
I TOLD YOU, OLD LADY, THURSDAY!
OKAY, HERE'S AN AD IN THE PAPER FOR A JOB AT A "LITTLE MOM AND POP SHOPPE." TERRIFIC. MAYBE MOM AND POP CAN RAISE YOU WHILE THEY'RE AT IT.
EXCUSE US, WE'RE TRYING TO GET TO THE MOM AND POP SHOPPE.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THE BIG BOX STORE IS CRUSHING THE MOM AND POP SHOPPE.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE STILL NEED TO GET THERE.
NO, REALLY. THE SIGN THEY WERE PUTTING ON THE ROOF NEXT DOOR BROKE OFF THE CRANE, BOUNCED ACROSS THE STREET AND PPLOOARGH!!
DAMN!
BIG BOX
YUP. BIG BOX IS STEALING THIS TOWN'S SOUL. TAKING EVERY JOB THERE IS. SHAME.
EXCUSE ME WHILE I SAY, BINGO!

It's election season! And you know what that means — candidates exploring the issues, leveling with the 200 years — telling people what they want to hear, carefully avoiding as many issues as possible and public and starting an open, honest discourse! Or, you know, doing what they've been doing for the last glossing over all their half-assed past behavior! Someone needs to cut through the crap with these...

QUESTIONS WE'D LOVE TO SEE THE MEDIA ASK PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES


Of the five different views you hold on abortion, which is your favorite?
Can you postulate as to whether a society as described in Plato's *Republic* is theoretically possible today? Ha! Just kidding. The question is really about your official campaign song...
Do you already have sleazy backroom deals with your unqualified friends regarding cabinet positions, or will you make those decisions *after* you're elected?
Do you believe that the crudeness and immorality coming out of Hollywood are getting way the f&%# out of hand?
Should Iraqi mosques be forced to post the Ten Commandments on their walls?
When you say you'll try to lessen America's dependence on foreign oil, are you being naive, joking or just outright lying?
We're ordering a bunch of post-debate pizzas. Sausage and pepperoni okay with you?
Since we're pre-empting *Family Feud* in selected markets, I wonder if you could satisfy some viewers by naming a vegetable beginning with the letter C?
Hypothetical scenario: you're in the Oval Office when an attack worse than 9/11 occurs. How long would it take you to politicize it and blame the other party?
If a Supreme Court nominee actually answered a question directly, would that disqualify him or her in your eyes?
To curtail greenhouse emissions, would you consider trading in Air Force One and using a hang glider?
Boxers or briefs? And you aren't exempt from this question, Sen. Clinton.
HAIR BY FRAN
ALFRED E. IN '08
QUESTION

WRITER: JEFF KRUSE
ARTIST: MORT DRUCKER

MAD's Better, Stronger, Faster Outtakes from BIONIC WOMAN